

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 /090 W
-----018562 041640Z /64

R 041500Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5467
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0679

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, AF
SUBJECT: COUP IN AFGHANISTAN

1. IN DISCUSSION MORNING OF MAY 4 AFGHAN AMBASSADOR TO LIBYA
PACHA GUL GAVE ME FOLLOWING IMPRESSIONS ON RECENT DEVELOP-
MENTS AT HOME: HE HAD ONLY ONE COMMUNIQUE FROM KABUL SINCE
COUP WHICH WAS LIMITED TO NAMING LEADING MEMBERS OF NEW
GOVERNMENT. LEADERS OF NEW GOVERNMENT WERE INDEED KNOWN
COMMUNISTS SOME OF WHOM ARE PERSONALLY KNOWN TO HIM. AS
PERSONAL FRIEND OF DAOUD HE REGRETTED DEVELOPMENTS BUT
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT LATTER HAD MADE NUMBER OF SERIOUS MISTAKES
OVER PAST SEVERAL YEARS PARTICULARLY IN HIS CHOICE OF
SUBORDINATES.

2. AMBASSADOR FELT OUTLOOK WAS GLOOMY BECAUSE IMPOSSIBLE,
HE SAID, FOR SOME 800 COMMUNISTS TO CONTROL 8 MILLION DEVOUT
MUSLIMS WITHOUT ENGAGING IN FURTHER KILLING. RESISTANCE
TO COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT LIKELY TO BE PARTICULARLY FIERCE
IN HIS HOME PROVINCE OF PAKTIA AND MOHAMMADZAI STRONGHOLD
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IN KANDAHAR. FOR HIMSELF, ALTHOUGH HE HAD SERVED FOR MANY
YEARS IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES (SIX YEARS IN SOVIET UNION
AND THREE YEARS IN BULGARIA), HE WAS NOT AND WOULD NEVER
BE A COMMUNIST. HE ADDED THAT COMMUNISM WAS AS ALIEN TO
HIM AS EATING PORK. HE WOULD RETURN TO AFHANISTAN IF
SUMMONED BY PRESENT GOVERNMENT.

3. TO DATE, AMBASSADOR NOTED, LIBYANS HAD NOT REACTED TO EVENTS. HE SPECULATED THAT QADHAFI PROBABLY SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSED SINCE PRESIDENT DAOUD HAD BEEN RECENT VISITOR TO TRIPOLI.

4. HE ENDED DISCUSSION EXPRESSING HOPE THAT LONG FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN AMERICAN AND AFGHAN PEOPLE WOULD NOT BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY DEVELOPMENTS THOUGH HE REALIZED THAT INCREASED SOVIET INFLUENCE MIGHT COMPLICATE AFGHAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

5. PACHA GUL HAS BEEN IN TRIPOLI ABOUT SIX MONTHS WHERE HE FINDS LIFE DIFFICULT AND LONELY. WE MEET OCCASIONALLY ON DIPLOMATIC CIRCUIT AND PERHAPS BECAUSE OF MY PREVIOUS SERVICE IN AFGHANISTAN (AEONS AGO) HE SEEKS CONVERSATION ON AFFAIRS OF THAT REGION. I LEAVE TO KABUL ANY JUDGMENT ON HIS VERACITY OR SINCERITY.
CARLE

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